



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)
Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion County, 2 cents; & copy elsewhere, 2 cents—delivered by carrier, 12 cents a week. Mail subscription rates in Indiana, \$3 a year; outside of Indiana, 65 cents a month.

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MONDAY, MAY 16, 1932.

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Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

In Justice to Mellett

Jesse H. Mellett is mayor of Anderson. He is also a sick man. He has been ill for months, desperately ill.

During the past week the federal court had on trial police officials of that city. Witnesses testified to various violations of the prohibition law.

There was an effort to link the name of the mayor with these violations. It is true that he has been indicted, but he has never been arrested—he is too ill for federal officers to take a chance of bringing criticism of having caused his end by such an act.

In his vigorous days, he never received blows tamely. He had the peculiarity of being able to defend himself.

It must be remembered that he is, in the eyes of the law, innocent. It may be well for the public to remember this and to remember that he is physically in no position to defend himself now from the stories of those who may find satisfaction in telling them.

One fact off the record should be remembered when Mayor Mellett is charged with conspiring to violate the liquor laws.

One year ago he telephoned to the prohibition department that there was open and notorious violation of that law upon the public streets of Anderson and that he was unable to enforce the law. He offered his police department to the prohibition agents. The telegram was never answered. There was no effort made to investigate.

At the scene of these violations were many high state and federal officials who saw these things. There were no arrests.

It may be well to defer judgment on Mellett until he recovers sufficiently to speak for himself.

Death and Taxes

The next two weeks will see the most powerful nature in all this nation's history directed against a tax bill.

With Burgoo King about the only business in the country that is running at a profit—except bootlegging—many of the industries at which the bill especially is directed are girding their loins for the greatest battle of all—the battle for self-preservation.

The opening salvo comes from the movie industry. In a statement by Senator Samuel Shortridge it is declared that 5,000 theaters will be closed if admissions above 10 cents are taxed; that this means hundreds of thousands added to the unemployed; and that all other related industries dependent upon this basic industry will be affected correspondingly.

This is but one of the many protests that will be pressed before the bill finally becomes law.

While many of the protests are subject to the discount that is applied to any contention from special interests protesting to their government, nevertheless, it is certain that no industry today is in a happy position to stand more taxes.

And equally certain it is that when any industry is taxed to death, it thereby ceases to pay taxes. Therefore, insofar as the tax program spells ruination of any industry, just that far the bill will fail to yield what the estimates show.

During the coming fortnight, the fight against this bill will include some industries to which the bill may mean life or death. The pressure already is being felt in house, senate, and White House. It is being promoted in some cases with the zeal of a drowning man.

Our outlet of relief is open. It is an immediate tax on beer, through amendment of the Volstead act. From a third to a half of the burden could be removed by such tax.

Therefore, those who now congregate in Washington for the struggle are turning to the beer tax as the way out. Whereas once these industrialists looked upon prohibition as more or less an academic political issue, they now are viewing it as one which holds the power of their economic survival.

Up to the last few days it has been regarded as political gospel that, while prohibition is doomed ultimately, the beer tax can not be passed this session.

But with the pressure of tax protest mounting, and the beer tax as the only avenue of relief, many of those who accepted the gospel are becoming skeptical.

An "eventually-why-not-now" feeling is in the air, and a straw in the breeze was the house petition on Saturday to vote on the O'Connor-Hull beer tax bill on May 23.

Because the pressure generated by the tax bill is so great, and the only way to relief is so clear, the thing that couldn't happen may happen.

Before this congress adjourns, beer may be legalized, and its tax applied to prevent the increase of economic misery which otherwise will occur.

A Door to Better Times

Until the channels of international trade are cleared, we can not achieve American prosperity. That this fact is being recognized by such widely separated groups as labor organizations and congressional committees is one of the most significant and encouraging recent developments.

When the railway brotherhoods appeal to the President of the United States for a restoration of foreign trade as a bread and butter proposition, and as the only alternative to a large scale government dole to the 8,000,000 unemployed and their families, it is time for politicians of both parties to take notice.

Not content with generalities, the railroad workers presented a 25-year moratorium on war debts and reparations, and debt cancellation in proportion to a debtor's imports from the United States.

In most cases this would amount to a cancellation within the moratorium period. Tariffs were dealt with as a barrier to trade revival, though somewhat less frankly than debts.

Appointment of an "international trade and war debt commission," consisting of representatives of business and labor, was suggested to negotiate with foreign governments.

Following the brotherhoods' emphasis on foreign trade as a way out of the depression, and a similar statement by Representative Henry L. Rainey, Democratic floor leader in the house, a house committee urged the President to call an international monetary conference to restore commodity prices and world markets.

Avoiding the curse of bimetallism, the committee linked with the restoration of silver prices the maintenance of the gold standard, where possible.

It is not necessary to favor the brotherhoods' particular brand of debt cancellation or to expect miracles from a world monetary conference, to appreciate the significance of these movements. They mean that Americans are getting over the costly myth that this nation can live in economic isolation.

They mean that we are beginning to understand that American prosperity is dependent on world prosperity.

This development, coming on top of a bipartisan

pledge to balance the federal budget and to provide unemployment relief, is decidedly hopeful.

Larrabee and Beer

The independent citizen will applaud the prompt change of position by Representative Larrabee on the question of beer.

Two weeks ago he was endorsed by the Anti-Saloon League because of his stand against any change in the prohibition law. The Times, for that reason alone, suggested that the new Eleventh district should nominate some one who had a different view.

Congressman Larrabee was renominated by a slight margin in a field of four, but with the votes of only 35 per cent of the Democratic electors in his district.

The house of representatives is chosen to respond quickly to public sentiment. That is the reason for the short term.

When the primary vote proved beyond doubt that the voters of his district, or at least the voters of the Democratic party to which he belongs, want to change from Volsteadism, Representative Larrabee became representative of that opinion.

If every congressman in congress voted the will of his constituents on every question, the government would be the ideal of those who believe in a representative, rather than a direct, form of self government.

It required courage, not cowardice, to cast this vote.

Indiana can be glad that one more member of congress is no longer in paws to the professional drys who have ruled so long and so ruthlessly.

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Civil Liberty in Porto Rico

Porto Rico presents another problem of serious nature. Leaders of the liberal party, formerly the dominant unionist party, are in Washington protesting that a coalition of two other major parties, under court decisions and an out-dated law, has brought about vital disfranchisement of their members.

This, the liberals assert, is accomplished by allowing only the Socialists and Republicans to have representation and protection at the current registrations, and later this year, it is feared, at the elections. It is interesting to note that women of Porto Rico are registering and voting for the first time this year.

Fearing that, under present conditions, liberal voters are not being registered, and that their votes will not be counted, the liberals seek amendment of the island's organic act by congress to provide for representation on the registration and election boards, the island legislature having failed to pass such law as asked by the liberals.

Governor Beverly is in this country, conferring with government officials on the problem, which already has caused riots on that peaceful island.

The right of free and fair election is the most important part of decent government, Spanish or American. Congress and the war department, which administers Porto Rican affairs, should investigate, to determine whether an amendment is needed to insure this most important of civil liberties.

It seems to us to make no difference what the liberals stand for, as long as they qualify as a party under the law.

Schwab intimated that he was almost broke in a speech the other day. We hope he isn't in such a bad way that the government has to give him another \$1-a-year job.

War debts may be a live topic in the United States, but France and England forgot all about them when they made up their new budgets.

That Syracuse mayor who lived on 9 cents a day still hasn't explained what to do if you haven't the 9 cents.

F. Scott McBride says he favors a dry test, and then he adds a lot of ifs. What he really means is that he favors a dry test if the result doesn't count.

It took Maryland 200 years to make it lawful for a man to kiss his wife on Sunday. Now the drys will say that gives an idea as to how long it will take the wets to change the Constitution.

It's hard to determine whether congress is really serious in its economy fight, or whether it's just shadow boxing.

A mid-western lawyer sang a song for a jury, which promptly found his client guilty. But they let the lawyer go free.

Mexican bandits are demanding only \$1,000 ransom for an American kidnapped by them. But Mexico always was a backward country!

That Paris item saying that bathing suits will be smaller this year settled one question. Bathing suits will be worn for at least another season.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

WOMEN would have easier lives if they could decide to live more simply. Half the nervous breakdowns among housewives are occasioned by the energy and worry wasted upon unimportant concerns.

Take, for instance, the matter of foods. We fuss and fret with new recipes and make up strange and impossible combinations. We take a particular delight in springing an unheard-of salad on the family. We work like beavers trying out new color schemes for the table and serve meals with the greatest possible labor, to feel up to date.

Yet in practically every home, the husband and children prefer plain, ordinary dishes and hate formalities at table.

This is true of nearly every phase of domestic life. Men like the furniture to remain in the same place from one year's end to the other, yet women forever are moving it about.

CHILDREN enjoy solid, undefeatable things among which they may play and rugs on which they may scuffle. And we mothers buy rare expensive items and thus spend our days in anguish, lest they be scratched. We keep the family miserable with our taboos.

For while men and children want comfort above everything, we long to be stylish and to keep up with the Joneses. Good food, simple table service, solid furniture is not enough. We must keep abreast of the fashions and in doing so miss most of the real fun of life.

I feel sure that most homes would be happier and possess a more wholesome atmosphere for children if the mother could get back to the simplicity and common sense which seems to be a natural heritage of men.

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THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

M. E. Tracy

Says:

Russia Has Nothing to Fear From Japan, and China Has Less Than She Did.

NEW YORK, May 16.—The assassination of Premier Inukai is peculiarly alarming because of the precision with which it was planned, the defiant strutting which preceded it, and the cold-blooded effrontery with which it was carried out.

There are few parallels for it this side of the Middle Ages.

Many great men have been murdered during recent years, but it has been long since the executive head of a nation was shot down by men in uniform.

The thing is so strange, so obviously bound up with oriental politics and oriental tradition, as to defy understanding.

Executed by Cadets

IT commonly was supposed that Inukai headed the war party in Japan, that he stood for about all that was conservative and imperialistic.

His murder at the hands of some liberal fanatic would not have been surprising.

But here are cadets, eighteen or twenty of them, rolling up to his house in automobiles, taking possession of front and rear entrances, calling him into the hall, ignoring his expressed willingness to listen, seizing him by the shoulders, putting guns to his temple and nose, and killing him without compunction.

It is to be inferred that these fiery young officers were incensed at the withdrawal of Japanese troops from the Shanghai area, and the more friendly tone which Japan lately has adopted toward China and Russia.

It is to be inferred that their dropping of bombs in front of two important banks, as well as the residence of important officials, before they murdered the premier, was intended as a warning to the nation at large.

It is to be inferred that they represented that element in Japan, especially in the Japanese army, which wants war and plenty of it.

If such was their purpose, they only have wrecked it.

Must Have Leaders

JAPAN can not make war without such leaders as Inukai, without the support of her old, conservative families, without the help of her great bankers, without maintaining her credit and reputation for stability.

Young bloods in uniform can murder the greatest statesmen that ever lived, but they can not fill his place. They can blow up banks, but they can not borrow money, or buy good on notes. They can demoralize people, but they can not develop an organization and a leadership which is necessary to united, forceful action.

Ruined Their Country

I killing Premier Inukai because he wasn't warlike enough, these misguided boys merely have made it impossible for Japan to wage aggressive war, have paralyzed their country by sowing the seeds of civil liberties.

It seems to us to make no difference what the liberals stand for, as long as they qualify as a party under the law.

IT SEEKS TO ME

In the Woodpile!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Depression Increases 'Mental Cases'

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN
Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association, and of Hygeia, the Health Magazine.

THE depression still is so recent—it is fact, it still is present—that it is impossible to make any positive statement at this time as to its effect on the mental health of the country generally.

Paul O. Komora of the national committee for mental hygiene, recommends the general feeling that mental and nervous disturbances are more widespread now.

He has found, indeed, that there is plenty of evidence of such disturbance among those whom the depression has hit hardest; namely, the unemployed and their families.

All state institutions are having difficulty in releasing patients well enough to go home, for the simple reason that there are no jobs to be had and the families of the patients are themselves in difficult financial circumstances.

Therefore, the burden of having the care of these people is passed back to the hospital and the number of paroles and discharges has diminished from 5 to 20 per cent.

Komora feels that the average man and his family have been up well under the terrible economic pressure and that the available statistics are a tribute to the sanity of the American people and their capacity for adjustment.

However, almost all hospital superintendents agree that the depression has had a definite effect on patients and discharges.

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